THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 18th December 1947.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Procurement of paddy in Arantangi and a portion of Pattukottai.

* 199 Q.—SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIKAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether monopoly has been given for procurement of paddy in the taluk of Arantangi, and in a portion of the taluk of Pattukottai to the Tiruvarur Co-operative Marketing Federation;

(b) whether the Pattukottai Co-operative Sales Society has applied for the same;

(c) for what reasons the Tiruvarur Co-operative Marketing Society was preferred to the local Co-operative Sales Society;

(d) whether there is a complaint that there is slackness in procurement by the Tiruvarur Co-operative Marketing Society;

(e) whether the collection of kist was delayed thereby;

(f) whether delay in procurement has led to blackmarketing; and

(g) whether there has been representation by the ryots of the area affected, and if so, what steps the Government have taken in the matter?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) No.

" (c) The question does not arise. The Tiruvarur Co-operative Marketing Federation was the only applicant and it was therefore selected.

" (d) At the beginning of the last Samba season, there were some complaints of slackness on the part of the Tanjore Co-operative Marketing Federation in the matter of procurement and payment. The Federation was thereupon made to appoint more agents and provide them with sufficient funds to ensure quick procurement and speedy payment. After this the Federation has been doing the work satisfactorily.

" (e) No.

" (f) No. There was no delay in procurement. On the other hand, after the grant of monopoly to the Tiruvarur Co-operative Marketing Federation, the scope for black marketing and smuggling has decreased.

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" (g) Yes, from a few interested persons who have a personal grouse against the Federation on account of personal and political animosity. But as the Federation has been carrying on the work of procurement satisfactorily, there was no need for the Government to take any action against it."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, to what extent the representation given by the ryots had effect on the procurement of grains? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I do not know the details of the question. I take it the hon. Member is referring to clause (g) of the question. The answer is 'Yes, from a few interested persons who have a personal grouse against the Federation on account of personal and political animosity. But, as the Federation has been carrying on the work of procurement satisfactorily, there was no need for the Government to take any action against it'."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I know to what extent this representation made by the ryots affected procurement? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I have not got the information. If it is wanted, I shall get it."

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIKAR :—" Will the Government be pleased to state whether Government agents, licence holders, etc., will be allowed to purchase from the surplus area and sell freely in the deficit areas in the deficit districts under the latest decontrol policy of the Government? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" No, Sir; for the simple reason that the movement of foodgrains from districts is controlled."

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIKAR :—" I mean within the district itself? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Within the district limits it is allowed."

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIKAR :—" May I take it that they can purchase in the surplus areas and sell in the deficit areas within the deficit district? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know why the Federation did not consider the possibility of using the Pattukottai Co-operative Sales Society for procurement? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" There has been a rivalry between the two societies, the Pattukottai and Tiruvarur Societies. The Tiruvarur Co-operative Marketing Society has been doing work very well and so there was no need for Government to interfere."